CALPEEK

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PICKING THE WINNER FOR L.A. CO. SUPERVISOR. With slightly more than a week to go before the Feb. 19 runoff special election in L.A. County's new 1st District, most CALPEEK insiders still pick L.A. Councilwoman Gloria Molina over State Sen. Art Torres in this race to see who will become the first Hispanic on the L.A. County Board of Supes in this century. About 6 or 7 out of 10 favor Molina in a tight race with Torres. But there is a BIG however...

...Some insiders think they have detected a slight shift toward Torres. In recent days he has won two key endorsements: Sarah Flores, the GOP candidate who finished 3rd in the Jan. 22 primary; and Demo State Sen. Charles Calderon, who finished 4th...

...Calderon's endorsement surprised some insiders because there's no love lost between these two. They have been rivals and in the primary Calderon brought up the subject of Torres' 2 busts for DUI. Some CALPEEK sources feel this badly hurt Torres, but all was forgiven because these senators share one thing in common: neither is very fond of Gloria...

...How critical are the Flores and Calderon endorsements? Both Torres and Molina courted Flores and Calderon because both drew their support from a KEY area in the new 1st District: the yuppie Hispanic, moderate Demo and GOP neighborhoods of the San Gabriel Valley. It is now the most important geographic area in this contest...

...The big question is whether Torres consultant David Townsend is putting together the kind of GOTV effort to win these voters over to Torres' side - either on election day or via the all-important absentee ballot. Most CALPEEK sources agree that in the primary, Molina's GOTV effort was the major factor in her first place finish. And there's little doubt Molina consultant Pat Bond is working overtime to pull off a repeat performance for the runoff...

...But it's not just GOTV that Torres must worry about. Insiders who are pulling for Torres believe he must AGGRESSIVELY explain to voters why Molina won't cut it as a supervisor. In short, he's got to attack by repeating what others have said about Molina: that she won't accomplish much because she's a PROTESTER, not a COALITION BUILDER...

...Molina is trying to portray herself as the underdog, independent, outsider, but that's not really the case. She's no underdog nor outsider. She's as savvy an insider as Torres and has lots of pull with other insiders, such as with U.S. Reps. Ed Roybal and Esteban Torres, both well respected Demo congressmen who are backing her candidacy. Molina also has major support from a number of women's groups, as well as the endorsement of the L.A. Times. She's quick on her feet in a debate and when it comes to money, she may not have as much as Torres, but she'll have enough to be very formidable...

...Bottomline: the key to victory for Torres is the GOTV effort and his ability to carpet bomb Molina on the issue of her ability to work with others. Right now the edge still belongs to Molina...

CALPEEK's JERRY BROWN WATCH: EX-GOVERNOR QUITS AS CDP CHAIR FOR SENATE BID IN 1992.. Back in 1989 when Jerry Brown first started to put together his bid to become chairman of the Calif. Democratic Party(CDP), his two main rivals, S.F. attorney Neil Eisenberg and party activist Steve Westly, warned convention delegates that Brown had a

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short attention span and would never serve out his 4-year term. Eisenberg and Westly were absolutely right, but NO ONE listened except for Demo Assemblyman Richard Katz, who also voiced serious misgivings about the former Calif. governor...

...Anyway, Brown did what CALPEEK sources said he would do: he announced that he was stepping down as CDP chair, to be effective during the party's annual convention Mar. 1-3 in Oakland. Although he stopped short of a formal declaration, Brown strongly indicated that he would eventually announce his intent to seek one of two Calif. U.S. Senate seats up for grabs in 1992...

...But several CALPEEK sources question how effective Brown would be as a U.S. Senator, given his sometimes quirky attitude and his inability to finish a task (especially when it gets tough or boring). Another source who has known Brown for many years says the former governor just runs from one thing to another. "He's an odd duck who doesn't live in the real world with the rest of us."...

...In assessing his almost two-years on the job, many Brown supporters point to the huge amount of money he raised at first and to a string of special election wins over the GOP. All true, but detractors note that much of the money raised was spent on on a large staff, instead of on voter registration and GOTV programs for 1990...

...Whether he's odd or not, the fact is that Jerry Brown had a real opportunity to score big points, not only for himself, but for the CDP as well --- and he blew it. In effect, had he done what he originally promised he'd do (handle the nuts & bolts of running a political party), he could have jumped into this new challenge without a whisper of criticism. Instead, there will always be doubts, according to sources...

...FYI: In the battle to succeed Brown as CDP chair, CDP Controller Mitch Fine claims the endorsement of 13 of 16 regional CDP chairs, plus former CDP chairs Betty Smith and Pete Kelly. His campaign also claims support from S.F. Co. Sup. Angela Alioto, who is expected to become the CDP's new vice chair. So. Calif. Vice Chair Chuck Fuentes and CDP Sec. Forescee Hogan-Rowles are also with Fine...

...The other major contender for party chairman is Sacto developer Phil Angelides, who has rounded up a large number of well known elected officials. They include U.S. Reps. Vic Fazio, Nancy Pelosi and Maxine Waters (Pelosi is a former CDP chair); L.A. Co. AFL-CIO leader Bill Robertson and UAW leader Bruce Lee; Insurance Comm. John Garamendi; SOS March Fong Eu; Dianne Feinstein; S.F. DA Arlo Smith; and Assembly Speaker Willie Brown and Senate President David Roberti. Angelides' campaign claims 4 of 16 regional CDP chairs. And you're correct: 4 regional CDP chairs plus 13 equal 17 - not 16, but that's what each side claims. Stay tuned...

FILING CLOSES FOR 3 SPECIAL ELECTION RACES. Editor's note: Filing has closed in 3 special elections, all set for Mar. 19. The specials are in the 1st and 35th Senate Districts and the 26th Assembly District. Here is a brief CALPEEK update...

• 1st S.D. - This is the No. Calif. district that used to belong to John Doolittle (R-Roseville), now in the U.S. House. The field has 4 Republicans, 1 Demo and 1 Libertarian. Of this group, GOP Assemblyman Tim Leslie, El Dorado Co. Sup. Bob Dorr(R) and Siskiyou Co. Sup. Patricia Mattingly(D) are the ones to watch. Also in the race are Bill Steele(R), a political consultant; 19-year-old American River College student Sherry Luman(R) and Gary Dusseljee(L)...

...FYI: Dorr, who claims to be PRO-CHOICE on the issue of abortion, has yet to be contacted by Calif. Republicans for Choice, while the CA Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL) is still waiting for Dorr to fill out a questionnaire. Remember, in a special, there is CROSS-OVER VOTING...

• 35th S.D. - In this district which used to belong to Calif.'s new Senator, John Seymour, the field of serious GOP candidates is now at 6, although some sources would dispute that --- they say only 4 serious GOP contenders. The top tier of GOP candidates includes Assemblymembers Doris Allen, Nolan Frizzelle and John Lewis; and attorney Dana Reed. The 2nd tier includes Westminster Mayor Charles Smith and John Parise, who ran for Insurance Commissioner last June. Other Republicans include Jim Wronski, a businessman; and William Dougher-

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ty, a retired Marine Corps officer. Orange City Councilman William Steiner decided NOT to run...

...The only Demo in the race is Francis X. Frank Hoffman, a member of the Orange Co. Board of Education. Eric Sprik of Costa Mesa is the Libertarian candidate...

...With Steiner out of the running, Reed now has the middle ground all to himself. Some feel this will be a big lift to Reed's candidacy, but others don't buy that. They say geographical considerations are more important in this contest than political philosophy. FYI: Reed has some professional problems with the State Bar of Calif. on charges that he worked at different times for both sides of Measure L --- an unsuccessful 1989 initiative in Cathedral City to legalize a card club in that Riverside County city. Reed denies any wrongdoing...

• 26th A.D. - This is the San Joaquin County district that used to belong to new Demo State Sen. Pat Johnston of Stockton. The field includes 4 Demos, 3 Republicans and 1 Libertarian. The Demos are: Patti Garamendi, wife of the insurance commissioner, who ran against Johnston for the 5th S.D.; Loralee McGaughey, a Stockton councilwoman; Annie Stallworth, a longtime fixture on the Stockton school board; and Demo Party activist Dario Marenco...

...The GOPers are Dean Andal of Stockton; Brad Keaster, who ran against Johnston for the Assembly last November; and Monseis Rames. The Libertarian is DeZarn Klohs...

...On the Demo side, Garamendi has hired consultant Richie Ross, who ran Johnston's campaign. Stallworth has good name I.D., but her fundraising ability may be questionable. McGaughey is off to a shaky start, as the Stockton Record just finished criticizing her and the council in 2 editorials (about the firing of the city mgr.). The remaining Demo, Marenco, has more political IOUs than all the candidates combined. Stay tuned...

SHOW BIZ FIGHTS 2 GROWTH PLANS IN BURBANK. It's the attorneys and campaign managers first "Full Employment Act of 1991," as Disney, Warner Brothers and NBC -- as well as most of Burbank's establishment -- fight two very restrictive slow growth measures placed on the ballot by local homeowners. The election will be held Feb. 26...

...Doing battle AGAINST Props. A & B are: Braun & Co. for NBC; The Wessell Co. for Disney; and Marathon Communications for Warner. As for law firms, attorneys who have been hired are experts in land use and slow growth proposals. They include Dan Garcia(Munger Tolles) for Warner; the Manatt, Phelps firm for Disney; and Latham, Watkins for NBC. Braun is the lead campaign consultant on the account...

...Why are the studios involved? It is possible that both Measures A & B may restrict future studio expansion or could prevent the studios from building new sound stages on their huge lots. In terms of other opposition, 4 of 5 Burbank councilmembers are against A & B. Interestingly, Councilwoman Mary Lou Howard, the former mayor who has been a LEADER in the slow growth movement in Burbank, is OPPOSED this time. Stay tuned...

IS VP DAN QUAYLE A GOP EQUIVALENT OF JFK??? According to GOP political consultant Bob Nelson, quoted in the San Diego Union's Jan. 20 edition, "He's very exciting, sort of the Republican equivalent of JFK." Well that quote sent Demo political consultant Joe Cerrell up the wall. In a 1/30 memo to Nelson, about Nelson's comparison of Quayle to the late Pres. John F. Kennedy, Cerrell says, "To say that Dan Quayle is: 'sort of the Republican equivalent of JFK' is without a doubt the most outrageous statement I've ever know you to make and comes close to being one of the most outrageous statements I've ever heard in my life." The quote which touched off Cerrell's memo was part of a larger story about Quayle and his new task of keeping Calif. in the GOP column for 1992. Stay tuned...

STATE OF THE COUNTY TOPIC FOR ANTONOVICH. The current issues facing L.A. County will be the subject of Sup. Mike Antonovich's speech to the L.A. Current Affairs Forum, 6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. dinner, Feb. 28, at the Orient Express Restaurant. Also on the NewsMaker/NewsBreaker agenda is KCOP-TV News Director Jeff Wald. For info & RSVPs, contact Emma Schafer at (213)445-8862...

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L.A. CITY ELECTION: SPOTLIGHT ON BLACK POLITICS WITH 2 COUNCIL SEATS ON THE LINE. Trying to figure out who supports who in the arena of BLACK L.A. City politics is often a difficult task at best, even if you happen to be an insider from L.A. With two Black L.A. council districts up for grabs in the Apr. 9 municipal primary, Black elected leaders are putting their political reputations on the line to back allies and friends. And in the case of new U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters(D-L.A.), she's put her organization to work in two campaigns --- for Bob Gay in the open 9th special election and for Rod Wright in the 8th district...

...To say that some other Black leaders are somewhat NERVOUS about Maxine's attempt to build a more powerful network of political allies is an understatement. To that end, there now seems to be a STOP MAXINE drive going on in both contests...

...The 9th first. The late Councilman Gil Lindsay's district takes in all of the big buildings of downtown, as well as some of the poorer neighborhoods. There are 26 candidates in this race, but many CALPEEK insiders see this contest as being a battle between Bob Gay, Lindsay's longtime AA, and L.A. School Board member Rita Walters, who is being backed by L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley. At first it was thought that Bradley might back another friend, Brad Pye Jr. Pye and SEIU labor leader Woody Fleming are in a 2nd tier behind Walters and Gay. The 3rd tier consists of 3 prominent community activists: Charles Henry, Leon Watkins and Joseph Hubbard Jr...

...Walters is very popular in the Black community and has tremendous name ID. But like L.A. Councilwoman Gloria Molina, she can be strident, and is often alone on school board votes. She moved into the 9th to run and was thus forced to go to court to stay on the ballot. The court decision letting her run infuriated Gay. At this point, Walters is considered the frontrunner, but with a crowded field a runoff is almost assured. Consultant Leslie Winner is running Gay's campaign, while Felicia Bragg is at the helm in Walter's effort...

...8th District. This is the seat now held by retiring Councilman Bob Farrell, whose popularity has plunged in recent years. The Waters' candidate is PA/campaign consultant Rod Wright. There are 10 rivals, but only 4 serious candidates. In addition to Wright, there is former Bradley AA Kerman Maddox; attorney Billy Mills; and SCLC regional chief Mark Ridley Thomas. Thomas has the backing of Farrell and U.S. Rep. Mervyn Dymally. Dymally AA Ken Orduna is running Thomas' campaign. Mills is getting support from L.A. Sup. Kenneth Hahn, while Maddox is relying more on community support than big name politicians. Consultant Rick Taylor is running the Maddox campaign. At this point, Mayor Bradley is neutral, as are a number of other elected officials. They're waiting to see if a frontrunner begins to emerge...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTES. Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook:

- Randi Romano has joined the San Diego-L.A. based polling firm of Decision Research as a reseach supervisor...

- Cynthia Suzuki named director of State & local govt. relations for Rancho Cordova-based Foundation Health Corp...

- Keith Love named asst. to McClatchy Newspapers vp of operations, with special emphasis on McClatchy's newly acquired newspapers in So. Carolina...

- Diane Hunt joins Rick Taylor's L.A. based PA/campaign firm as a sr. associate. In 1990, Hunt was a So. Calif. fundraising specialist for both former AG John Van de Kamp and Dianne Feinstein...

- Sacto-based campaign firm, Directions, moves to 1123 N. Market Blvd., Ste. 1, Sacramento, CA 95834...

- Veteran lobbyist Thomas N. Truax of Sacto was killed in a private plane accident Jan. 26, in Sacto. R.I.P...

- State Controller Gray Davis has named Marsha Kwalwasser as his new C-O-S, replacing Dan Zingale, who is moving to Washington D.C. The appointment takes effect on Feb. 15...

- KABC-TV political reporter Linda Breakstone is picked by KABC Radio to do a show each Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m...

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